(b) if so, what is the time schedule for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. World Bank has approved a loan of US $ 516 million only for laning of certain stretches totaling to 477 Kms. National Highway No. 2 between Delhi and Calcutta.

(b) The Project is targeted for completion by December 2003.

Development of NW-II as all weather navigable waterway

1054. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 136 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd February, 1999 and state;

(a) the break-up of Rs. 17 crore spent for purchase of dredgers, nature and utilisation status of such dredgers in NW-II.

(b) the details of fairways and terminal developed and navigational aids, equipments purchased showing the financial involvement;

(c) the details of instruments procured for night navigation and its utilisation status;

(d) the steps undertaken to make NW-II all weather navigable for heavy vessels supported by achievement parameters as well as set targets; and

(e) the details of new proposals to develop NW-II?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) A provision of Rs. 15 crores is made in 9th Plan Outlay for dredgers for NW-2. An order for procurement of one Hydraulic Surface Dredger at a price of Rs. 5.30 Crores has already been placed. Action is also in hand for procurement of one cutter suction dredger at a cost of Rs. 6.38 crores.

(b) Details are as under

(i) Fairways:— Navigable channel of 2 meter depth is maintained up to Pandu for about 330 days in a year. River Conservancy works

such as bandalling dredging, channel marking etc. are planned for the entire stretch of NW-2 for which a sum of Rs. 4 Crores is provided in the Budget for the current year.

(ii) Terminals:— Floating terminals have been provided at Dhubri, Jogighopa, Pandu, Tezpur and Neamati. Pontoons have been constructed for providing floating terminal at Sadiya and Saikhowa. A sum of Rs. 67 lakhs has been spent on construction of Pontoons and a sum of Rs. 80-90 lakhs is meant for annual maintenance of floating terminals.

(iii) Navigational aids/Equipments:— Navigational facilities for 24hrs between Dhubri and Guwahati are planned to be ensured and a sum of Rs. 4.63 Crores is earmarked for the purpose. So far, a sum of Rs. 85 lakhs has been spent.

(c) The approved scheme for Dhubri-Pandu stretch envisages procurement of 210 lighted buoys. So far 72 buoys and 106 lights have been procured and the work for installation and maintenance of the lighted buoys has been awarded to IWT directorate of Govt. of Assam.

(d) Regular hydrographic surveys, bandalling and channel marking are being carried out on year to year basis through IWT, Directorate of Government of Assam. All weather navigation by 600 tonne vessel upto Pandu is presently available. The target is to extent this facility upto Dibrugarh/Sadiya. Besides river notices and pilotage service are provided for safe movement of vessels.

(e) New proposals include hiring of dredgers, procurement of new survey launch, extension of night navigation facility upstream of Pandu in phases and construction of permanent terminal at Pandu, subject to availability of funds.

Road safety

1055. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carefully scrutinised the representations from social activists and people concerned with road safety;

(b) if so, whether any steps are taken at the field level;